

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims have been amended. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that Claim 15 is allowed. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of the pending claims.

To more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, claims 1 through 14 have been cancelled and replaced with claims 16 through 22. No new matter has been added. Consider claim 16, which recites a method of aligning an optical prism assembly to a lens assembly. As set forth, for example, on page 11, lines 5 through 34, the optical prism assembly may be aligned to the lens assembly responsive to viewing the optical prism assembly through the objective lens in the lens assembly. Thus, claim 16 recites the act of "adjusting a position of the optical prism assembly with respect to the lens assembly in response to viewing the position of the optical prism assembly through an objective lens of the lens assembly, the position adjustment being effective to optically align the optical prism assembly with respect to the lens assembly."

The Wilson reference, US. Pat No. 6,631,302, does not disclose or suggest the viewing of the optical prism assembly through the objective lens of the lens assembly. Thus, claim 16 is patentable over this reference.

Because claims 17 through 22 depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 16, they are patentable over the Wilson reference for at least the same reasons.

Claim 17 limits claim 16 so that the viewing of the optical prism assembly refers to the viewing of a circular element and "and adjusting the relative position of the optical prism assembly until the circular element is optically concentric with the objective lens." Similarly, claim 18 limits claim 17 so that the circular element is a forward sense element. Support for these limitations is seen on page 11, lines 5 through 34 of the specification.

Claim 19 further limits claim 16 to include the acts of aligning the laser diode to the substrate using alignment marks. Support for claim 16 is shown, for example, at pages 12 and 13 of the specification.

Claim 20 limits claim 19 such that the laser diode and the substrate are rigidly connected through the application of a silver-based adhesive as also described on pages 12 and 13 of the specification.

Claim 21 limits claim 19 such that the laser diode mounts on the substrate through a laser diode mount as also described on pages 12 and 13 of the specification.

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Claim 22 limits claim 18 such that the laser diode provides a laser beam which is then used to optically align the substrate to the optical prism assembly/lens assembly as described, for example, on page 16 of the specification.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, pending Claims 15 through 22 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

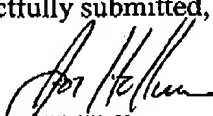
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August 13, 2004
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